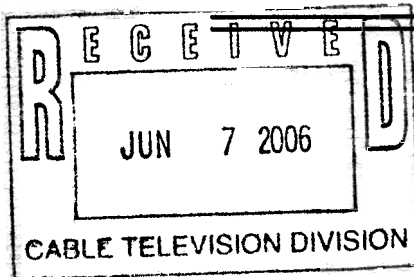




TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH

Town Offices, 63 Main Street
Northborough, Massachusetts
01532-1994



June 2, 2006

Andrea Nixon
Clerk, Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02111

Dear Ms. Nixon:

The Town of Northborough would like to register its strong opposition to Verizon's March 16, 2006, rulemaking petition filed with the Cable Division of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy. Verizon's petition proposes extremely unreasonable new rules for initial cable licensing.

The proposed rules would require a municipality to hold a public hearing on an initial cable television license application within 60 days of the application filing, and would require only 30 days from the time of the public hearing for the municipality to approve or disapprove the application, and issue the actual license in case of approval.

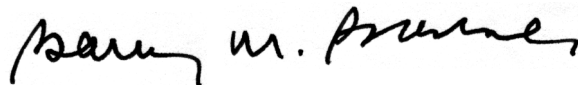
As most local officials will tell you, it is impossible to conclude a proper initial license application review, negotiation, license drafting and issuance within 30 days of the public hearing.

The existing license timetables have worked well for decades. They should not be changed at the behest of a single proponent. Note that Congress contemplated and provided for a three-year renewal process when it more comprehensively and carefully set forth cable licensing rules in the 1984 Cable Act. This framework worked well for decades and there is no rational basis for casting aside the time tested licensing rules and replacing them with radically abbreviated rules.

We are concerned that under the proposed rules, our community, as well as cities and towns across the State will be boxed into an untenable 30 day post-hearing licensing process, and will lose the ability to properly review and negotiate Verizon cable proposals. This is not an appropriate timetable for a fair and reasonable licensing process. The Massachusetts Cable Division should reject the Verizon petition.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any further questions or desire further comment, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Barry M. Brenner
Town Administrator

BMB/mj

cc: Board of Selectmen
Cable Television Committee
Kathy Dalglish, Cable TV Public Access Director

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